Message Text

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R 072240Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0731 INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AMEMBASSY ROME AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

CONFIDENTIAL SAN JOSE 1545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CS, AR, BR, IT

SUBJECT: VESCO CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION

REF: A) STATE 057073, B) BUENOS AIRES 2235, C) ROME 4330, D) BRASILIA 2138

- 1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RE VESCO'S TRAVELS TO ARGENTINA AND ELSEWHERE ORIGINATED WITH LOCAL LAWYERS WHO ARE ATTEMPTING TO BLOCK VESCO'S REQUEST FOR COSTA RICAN CITIZENSHIP. THEIR PRESUMED INTENTION IS TO ESTABLISH THAT VESCO HAS NOT MET THE COSTA RICAN REQUIREMENT OF FIVE YEARS CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE IN COSTA RICA OR THAT HIS 1974 DECLARATION OF INTENT TO BECOME A COSTA RICAN CITIZEN WAS INSINCERE. WHAT THEY ARE SEEKING, THEN, IS ANY EVIDENCE OF FREQUENT OR PROLONGED DEPARTURES FROM COSTA RICA DURING FIVE YEARS PRIOR TO FEBRUARY, 1978 OR EVIDENCE THAT HE DEMONSTRATED INTENT TO BECOME A RESIDENT OR A CITIZEN OF ANOTHER COUNTRY DURING THAT PERIOD.
- 2. IT MAY BE THAT PRIVACY ACT PROHIBITIONS OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WILL NOT ALLOW USG TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO COSTA RICAN PRIVATE CITIZENS ALL OF THE RELEVANT INFORCONFIDENTIAL.

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MATION THAT MAY HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN BUENOS AIRES REPORTS CITED REF B (NONE OF WHICH ARE CURRENTLY LOCATED IN EMBASSY FILES), OR ITALIAN NATIONAL POLICE REPORTS DESCRIBED REF C. HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT SEEM INAPPROPRIATE TO PASS ON DOCUMENTS OR INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN NO MATTER WHAT THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. IF THIS IS CORRECT, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT REQUEST EMBASSY BUENOS

AIRES TO SEEK TO OBTAIN COPIES OF ANY PUBLIC RECORDS PERTAINING TO VESCO'S PETITION FOR RESIDENCE, GOA APPROVAL OF PETITION, CANCELLATION OF PERMIT, REVOCATION OF PERMIT AS WELL AS COURT "GESTURE" DESCRIBED REF B. RECOGNIZE THAT CONDITIONS DESCRIBED PARA 3, REFTEL B, MAKE IT DOUBTFUL THAT ALL SUCH DOCUMENTATION WOULD BE AVAILABLE BUT ANYTHING OF THIS NATURE THAT MAY BE TURNED UP WOULD HELP. ALSO, COPIES OF ANY ARGENTINE PRESS REFERENCES TO VESCO'S RESIDENCE APPLICATION, ETC., WOULD BE USEFUL.

- 3. BELIEVE THAT ANY SIMILAR-TYPE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO VESCO'S ACQUISTION OF ITALIAN NATIONALITY AND ANY PUBLIC OR PRESS RECORD OF VESCO'S PRESENCE IN ITALY IN 1973 OR LATER WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL. IF, ON OTHER HAND, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT SOME OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS OR FILES CANNOT BE PASSED TO COSTA RICANS BY USG, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO URGE GOI TO RELEASE THEM TO PRIVATE COSTA RICANS? IF SO, WE WILL SUGGEST COSTA RICANS ADDRESS THEIR REQUEST TO ITALIAN EMBASSY HERE.
- 4. REQUEST THAT ESSENCE OF GOB REPLY TO EMBASSY BRASILIA NOTE (PARA 1, REFTEL D) BE CABLED SAN JOSE AS SOON AS RECEIVED. WE WILL, OF COURSE, NOT RELEASE TO COSTA RICANS WITHOUT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION.
- 5. AS POINTED OUT IN SEPARATE MESSAGE, ONE OF POSSIBLE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSEQUENCES OF RECENT CIVIL REGISTRY DECISION RE CITIZENSHIP OF CARLOS RECHNITZER (WHO HAS CHARGED VESCO WITH CRIMINAL FRAUD) MAY BE TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR GOCR TO ACT ON VESCO'S CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION. ONCE CIVIL REGISTRY PUBLISHES OFFICIAL NOTICE OF APPLICATION, NOW EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE VERY SOON, OPPONENTS MAY HAVE ONLY TEN WORKING DAYS TO PRESENT THEIR ARGUMENTS. THEREFORE, URGE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO THESE REQUESTS ASAP. WEISSMAN

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